


Board sends '05 budget to messengers

By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) on August 24 recommended submitting a proposed 2005 Mississippi Cooperative Program budget of \$31,314,491, for a vote by messengers to the annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention on October 26-27 at First Church, Jackson.

The result of nearly a year of planning by the board's budget committee and MBCB department directors, the 2005 proposal reflects a 1.49% increase over the 2004 budget. Highlights include an increase of 44.89% for the Evangelism Department and an increase of 9.10% for the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union. The Southern Baptist Convention portion of the 2005 budget also shows an increase of 1.49% across the board, and remains steady at 35% of the total budget.

The MBCB Executive Committee also met in advance of the full board meeting and approved Anthony Britt as the new Baptist Student Union director at Southwest Community College at Summit.

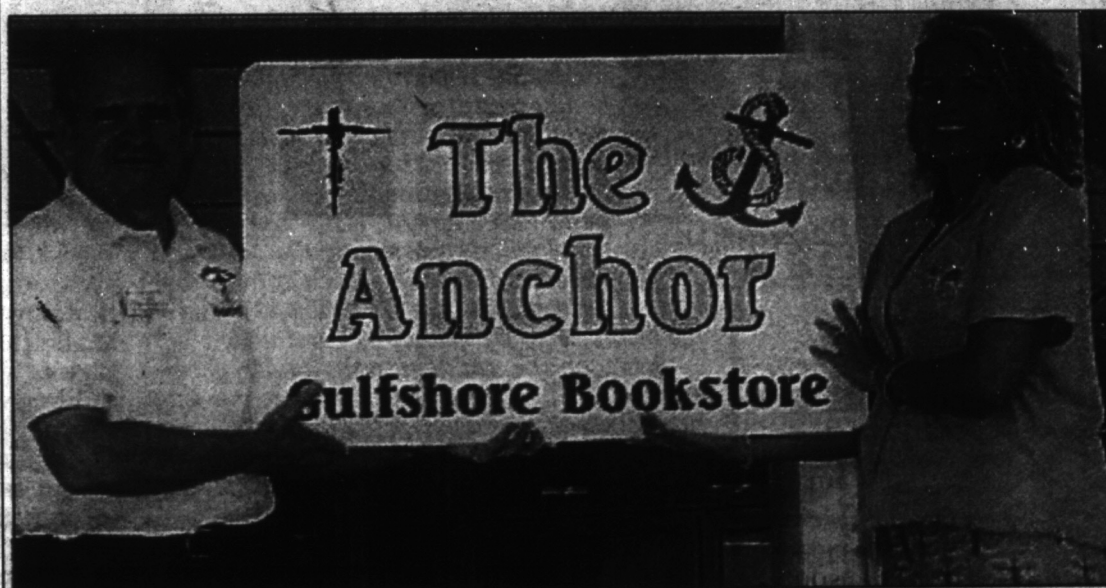


Britt

Britt holds a master of arts in Christian education degree ('04) from New Orleans Seminary, and a bachelor of science in communications and public relations degree ('98) from Mississippi College in Clinton. He has served as student minister at Pleasant Hill Church, Bogue Chitto; Sylvarena Church, Wesson; and Monticello Church, Monticello.

Mark Peach, a partner in the accounting firm of KPMG LLC in Jackson, reported to the Executive Committee that the most recent audit of MBCB financial

Gulfshore bookstore named



Gulfshore Assembly Manager Frank Simmons (left) and Laurie Brown of Senatobia, a member of First Church, Coldwater, prepare to hang the sign with the new name of the Gulfshore bookstore. Brown and Naomi Nichols, a member of First Church, Ripley, won a contest to name the bookstore after the assembly assumed control of the bookstore from LifeWay Christian Resources in Nashville. Gulfshore Assembly is located in Pass Christian. (BR special photo courtesy of Gulfshore Assembly)

statements confirmed the statements are in conformity with generally accepted accounting procedures in the U.S. KPMG was retained by the convention board to conduct the 2004 annual audit.

In other business, the MBCB Executive Committee:

- Approved a request from Copiah Association, Hazlehurst, to appoint David Crowe, pastor of Strong Hope Church, Wesson, to fill the unexpired MBCB term of Clarke Stewart, pastor of Harmony Church, Crystal Springs, who resigned.

- Approved a request from Itawamba

Association, Fulton, to appoint Jerry Estes, pastor of Dorsey Church, Shannon, to fill the unexpired MBCB term of David Aultman, who resigned.

• Approved a request from Leake Association, Carthage, to appoint Mark Mayo, pastor of West Carthage Church, Carthage, to fill the unexpired MBCB term of Matt DeBord, who resigned.

The next scheduled meeting of the convention board is immediately following the adjournment of the 2005 annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention annual meeting on October 27.

WHAT'S IN THE RECORD

Just for the Record

Baptist Children's Village

Sunday School Lessons

Practical Principles

Miss. CP down in August

Gifts to the work of the Lord through the Cooperative Program (CP) in August totaled \$2,167,534, according to executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Board which disburses the funds. The August total is a decrease of 14.78% when compared to the \$2,557,248 of the previous month, and is .67 % less than the \$2,182,000 of the same period last year. Total Mississippi CP giving for the current year, which runs from January-December, is \$21,675,340, which is 2.11% above last year's giving of \$21,210,000, or .07% ahead of current year budget needs. The current year budget of \$30,854,971, was approved by members at the annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention in May. \$2,571,248 is needed each month to meet the current year budget for 2004. In addition to supporting the work of missionaries in the U.S. and around the world, the Mississippi Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, Mississippi, also supports programs as the Missionary Training Center, the Camp Garaywa in China, the State Conference, the annual September 24-25 in Hattiesburg, and the annual Southern Baptist Ministry Conference October 1 at First Church in Hattiesburg.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



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Postmaster: Send changes of address to The BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Send news, communication, and address changes to The Editor, BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530 (601) 968-3800. Fax: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org

VOLUME 128 NUMBER 36
(ISSN-0005-5778)

Published weekly except weeks of July 4 and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, 515 Mississippi Street, Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$9.35 per year payable in advance. Economy plans available for cooperating Mississippi churches. Periodicals postage paid at Jackson, MS. Member, Association of State Baptist Papers. Deadlines: News items — one calendar week prior to requested publication date. Advertising — two calendar weeks prior to requested publication date.

Baptists caught in the Belsan tragedy

We need your prayers. People in Russia need your prayers. Your brothers and sisters in the city Belsan need your prayers the most.

I just talked to the Yuriy Sipko, the president of the Russian Baptist Union. He flew to Belsan this morning as soon as the authority permitted this flight. The regional vice-president Nikolay Sobolev is in Belsan as well. As I spoke, believers gathered in one church there. What we feared the most, happened.

Our brother Taymuraz Totiev, the pastor of the church, had five children. One of his daughters (nine years old) was able to escape and she is at home. What has happened to his other children, at this point no one knows. They have not been found either among dead or those who escaped.

Sergey Totiev, the brother of Taymuraz Totiev, had 3 children. His son (13 years old) is in the hospital now with severe injuries to one of his eyes. The doctors have scheduled the surgery.

His daughter, nine years old, is now with the Lord. Her body will be given to the family tomorrow to be buried. The family is still trying to locate another daughter but as of right now, no evidence if she is either died or alive.

We also have another Christian family in that city. One sister and three of her children were among the hostages. Believers from the church cannot find her body but they found a body of one of the lady's sons. He is with the Lord now.

Some of the children were under severe stress and shock. Many of them were put into five different hospitals in the city of Belsan. Those who were injured severely were taken to the nearest largest city, Vladikavkaz, and others. Some were taken and flown to Moscow.

Some children under shock did not even remember their own names, much less the name of their parents. Some kids because of injuries could not speak at all and of course children did not have any documents with them. It is hard to identify their names, etc., and because of that it is difficult for parents to locate their children.

We just hope that our believers finally will find the rest of their family members.

Oh God! I don't understand many things. I don't understand why this has happened. I don't understand why our brothers and sisters had to go through that. I only know that You are still on the throne.

God, please, please, comfort my brothers and sisters in Belsan with your special touch of love during this horrible and grieving time. Please, God.

— Southern Baptist missionary serving in Russia

If there is any argument left about whether we are indeed in a World War Against Terror, may the skeptical now be pointed to Belsan, Ossetia, Russia, where school children were seized, stripped, beaten, and slaughtered by the hundreds for political gain. It may be a more complex story, but that's the simple bottom line.

If there is any debate left about the course of radical Muslim fundamentalism around the world — and whether they will one day be coming for us — may our eyes now be opened. If there is any question as to how low these people will go to destroy all those who

don't believe as they do, may the answer now be obvious to all. If there is any doubt left that what the world needs now more than ever is Jesus Christ, our Strength and our Redeemer, let those voices now be silent.

If you haven't started praying for all the lost souls in this world, now would be an exceedingly good time to start doing so.



GUEST OPINION:



Something to last for eternity

By Earnest Sadler, Acts 1:8 Strategist
MBCB Missions Strategy Division

By the year 2000, with more churches in existence, there was one Southern Baptist church for every 1370 persons.

In Mississippi today there are at least 46 identifiable population groups, sometimes referred to a neo-tribal cultures. These cultural groups are often shaped and identified by such things as values, attitudes, activities, interests, beliefs, and opinions. No one church can reach people from all these cultural backgrounds, and many of our existing churches will not be able to cross these cultural lines and reach these unchurched culture groups. We must start new churches to reach them where they are. We can and we must be about the business of evangelizing our "Jerusalem and Judea".

C. Peter Wagner has stated that "the single most effective evangelistic methodology under heaven is planting new

churches." In a study done by Jim Slack of the International Mission Board, he states, "Reaching the lost is best done by planting multiple, indigenous, new churches who will go on to plant other new churches."

Through the Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering, eleven new churches were started in 2003. Those eleven churches reported 434 professions of faith, far above the average of similar-sized churches that have been existence for years. New churches grow 10 times faster than established churches. Statistics also reveal that new churches are much more likely to plant new churches than are older established churches.

At the Mississippi Baptist Convention (MBC) annual meeting in 2002, our executive director, Jim Futral, in casting his 20/20 Vision, challenged Mississippi Baptists to start 1000

new churches by the year 2020. To meet this challenge, every existing church and every association in the MBC must be about the task of starting new churches.

We must move beyond the idea of starting traditional white-columned, padded-pew churches and focus on starting "different kinds" of churches. This is not to say that there is something wrong with the traditional church, but to say that maybe, just maybe, our existing churches have reached about as many "people like us" as we are going to reach.

We must start different kinds of churches to reach different kinds of people. For instance, you might consider starting a church in some type of multi housing complex. In Mississippi, about 520,000 people (19%) live in one of five different kinds of multihousing communities. Of these, 90% are unchurched. Is that not a mission field? If a church will pull out all the stops to plant a new church, the money spent and the people sent will be replenished in six months to one year.

Someone has said, "To grow something that will last a year, plant a flower. To grow something that will last a lifetime, plant a tree. To grow something that will last for eternity, plant a church."

Mississippi disaster relief unit eyeing Ivan

ATLANTA (BP and local reports) — Facing prospects of a third major hurricane strike in Florida in a month, more than 100 Southern Baptist Disaster Relief units have evacuated the state — again. In addition, more than 25 Southern Baptist units en route to the beleaguered state have been re-routed, stopped temporarily, or returned to their home base.

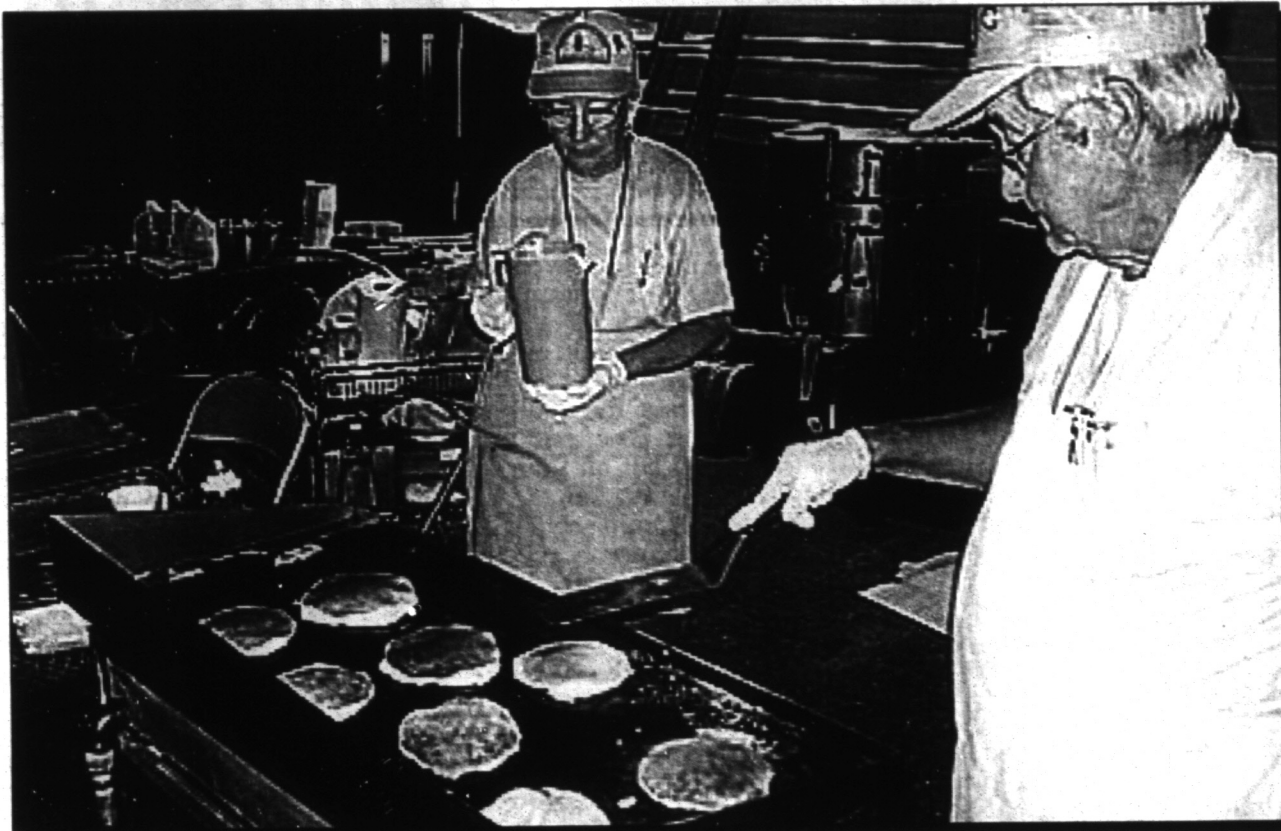
Hurricane Ivan, the most powerful hurricane to hit the Caribbean in 10 years, has already killed a number of people, damaged nine out of 10 buildings in Grenada, and caused emergency officials to order the total evacuation of the Florida Keys.

The Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Task Force remains on standby as Hurricane Ivan takes aim at a wide area of the U.S. Gulf Coast that may ultimately include Mississippi. Various meteorological models predict the powerful storm could make landfall somewhere between New Orleans and the Florida panhandle.

Since activation for Hurricane Charley August 14-September 1, the Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Task Force's mass feeding unit has been repaired and restocked with provisions, and remains poised for an Ivan activation from its post at Central Hills Baptist Retreat near Kosciusko.

Hurricane Charley struck southwest Florida Aug. 13, causing an estimated \$7 billion in damage and killing 27 people. Frances hit Florida's eastern coast last Sunday (Sept. 5) leaving \$2 to \$4 billion in damage and 15 dead.

Since mid-August more than 4,000 Southern Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers have given 200,000 hours of service preparing more than one million hot meals and completing 4,000 tree removal and clean-up projects. Coming from 25 state Baptist conventions, units



EARLY RISERS — Dixie (left) and Bobby Kennedy, from the Oma community near Wesson and members of Pearl Valley Church, Wesson, arise well before sunrise to prepare breakfast for volunteers and other workers serving in Arcadia, Fla., in the aftermath of Hurricane Charley. (BR photo by Tony Martin)

evacuated Florida last week and waited for Frances to move through. They had been re-deploying the last two days but were force to evacuate again.

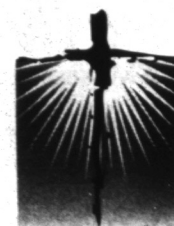
"We must evacuate ahead of the anticipated storm to avoid traffic jams and protect the equipment as well as our people in order that they will be available to re-deploy following the storm," said Jim Burton, director of volunteer mobilization for the North American Mission Board (NAMB) which coordinates Southern Baptists' extensive disaster relief operations. Some of the disaster relief units, most of which are owned by Southern Baptist churches, associations and state conventions and staffed by trained volunteers, will ride out the storm in nearby states such as Georgia and Alabama, while

planning to go back into the hardest-hit areas if necessary by the first of next week.

Some of the disaster units are being re-directed to Georgia, South Carolina, and western North Carolina to deal with power outages, flooding, and other damage from Frances.

"We've been stretched pretty far," said Mickey Caisson, NAMB's disaster operations manager. "We're doing a juggling act as things change constantly. We need Southern Baptists to pray for those in the path of the new storm, those already affected, our thousands of volunteers, many of whom are tired having been in the field for as long as three weeks. And, pray for wisdom for those in leadership that we make the right decisions at the right time."

Frequent updates on the Mississippi Baptist disaster relief effort can be found at www.mbc.org. Additional Baptist disaster relief information and photographs can be found at www.sbcdphoto.org and www.namb.net/dr.



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

**THE
SECOND
FRONT PAGE**

THE BAPTIST
Record

PUBLISHED SINCE 1877

SEPTEMBER 16, 2004

VOL. 128

No. 36

A two-minute video about Southern Baptist efforts also is available for viewing and download on the NAMB website. The video is appropriate for SBC churches to show during Sunday worship services to familiarize members with the ministry and encourage them to pray.

Praise for the denomination's disaster relief ministry has come from across the country, including syndicated religion and ethics columnist Mike McManus.

In his newspaper column this week, McManus pointed out that few of the thousands of Florida hurricane victims served hot meals last week realized "they were cooked, not by the Red Cross which delivered them, but by 1,800 Southern Baptist volunteers."

IMB assists Russians

MOSCOW (BP) — Southern Baptist relief funds are assisting victims, families and survivors of the September 3 terrorist massacre in Beslan, Russia. The International Mission Board (IMB) immediately released \$5,000 from its general relief fund to help in the aftermath of the 36-hour standoff that took the lives of 326 hostages — half of them children. Two leaders of the Russian Baptist Union were able to use the funds to assist grieving families with burial expenses and other needs. Yuri Sipko, president of the Russian Baptist Union (RBU), and Nikolai Sobolov, an RBU regional vice president, spent hours counseling and praying with the families affected by the tragedy, said IMB missionary Ed Tarleton. "I spoke with Yuri Sipko on his return to Moscow," Tarleton reported, "and he said, 'Please give our heartfelt thanks to your leaders, missionaries, friends and Southern Baptist churches for their prayers and financial assistance during this time. Your help during this crisis has been wonderful.'" RBU Vice President Peter Mitskevitch flew to Beslan Sept. 6 to assess needs in the area, Tarleton said. Mitskevitch's report will help Russian Baptists, Southern Baptist missionaries, and other evangelical Christians to effectively minister in the area in coming weeks. Individuals and churches interested in contributing to a relief fund may send designated checks to Russian Baptists — General Relief International Mission Board, P.O. Box 6767, Richmond, VA 23216.

Looking back

10 years ago

Eleven directors of the Home Mission Board sign a "statement of dissent" intended to disassociate themselves from a controversial document dealing with Catholics and evangelicals as well as from recent action by the mission agency's board concerning that document.

20 years ago

First Church, Natchez, dedicates its just-completed 1,100 seat sanctuary with a choir presentation of Mendelssohn's "Hymn of Praise," accompanied by the new 35-rank Moeler pipe organ and the Jackson Symphony Orchestra.

50 years ago

Visiting churchmen from around the world say that America is a much more religious nation than they had realized, and suggested American movies and newspapers had helped mislead them about the spiritual qualities of the nation.

New SS lesson writers are announced

A pair of Mississippi Baptists have taken over writing responsibilities for the weekly Sunday Schools lessons for The Baptist Record.

James A. Walters has taught Latin in high school for the last four years, and is adjunct professor of Latin at the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg. Walters has pastored churches in Mississippi for 22 years, and has M.Div and D.M. in degrees from New Orleans Seminary. He has been married for 32 years to his wife, Gail; has two daughters, Rebecca and Angela; and two grandchildren, Ella and Nadia. He is a member of Temple Church, Hattiesburg.



Walters

Geneva England is an English instructor at Holmes Community College and has been published in ERIC, the journal of the Mississippi Council of Teachers of English; The Journal of Mississippi History; and The Journal of the Southeastern Conference on English in the Two-Year College.

Her husband Archie and she are parents of "another Archie." She has "a wonderful daughter-in-law and three granddaughters." She is a member of First Church, Grenada.

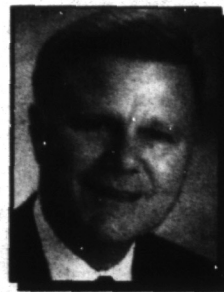


England

DR. BILL STEWART, A MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST PASTOR

On Sunday afternoon, August 15, 2004, I attended a huge reception and celebration honoring Dr. and Mrs. Bill Stewart for their love and leadership as the first family of FBC Eupora. For 40 years Bill Stewart has been the faithful, attentive, guiding shepherd at FBC Eupora. Generally speaking, I do not write this column about individuals. Usually, I try to look at issues, ideas, circumstances, missions, and ministries, but in this case I just felt like I needed to say a word about not only this remarkable man and family but this outstanding church. I have known of Bill Stewart the entire time he has been at Eupora, and I have had the privilege of being a friend most of that time. He is a remarkable guy! One of the things that makes him so remarkable is that he honestly doesn't know that he is remarkable. He came to Eupora and planted his life, raised a family, loved the church, and made a difference across the state and beyond because of the bright light that he reflects from our Lord.

Through these years he has served wherever he has been asked in the association, in the state convention, or in Southern Baptist life. He has an unusual spirit that asks for nothing but is willing to do anything. He has served on committees, commissions, and trustee bodies. I thought about those 40 years and all that is packed into those days of ministry and service. What I think would be on the low side the number of sermons he would have preached would be over 6,000. That does not include messages, revivals, weddings, and funerals of which there have been many, many more. Through all these years his sweet companion, Bettye, has been at his side. Well actually she has not been at his side, she has been playing the piano, working with the music, raising kids, teaching Bible, and when she was needed to make a visit or to provide help and comfort she was at his side. It is not like he has stayed there 40 years and did nothing. They have always been involved in doing something expanding in one direction or another or adding buildings or people.



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

They have built, but even more remarkable they have torn down. Well at least they have moved buildings so they could expand.

When I arrived the receiving line was across the multi-purpose building floor and to the door. When I left an hour later the line was even longer. A 40-year span of ministry at one church by one man is a remarkable accomplishment. It says something wonderful about the man and it says something even more wonderful about his church. It takes a whole lot of living and giving and a whole lot of forgiving to fill up 40 years. Everybody needs to be forgiven at some point in his life and by the same token must express forgiveness to other folks. Apart from forgiveness every relationship will break down. It is not just a matter of doing wrong, but it is a matter of disappointing. At times the pastor disappoints the people because he is unable

to fulfill their expectations. The reverse is also true as at times individuals in the congregation do not follow through with their commitments. Oftentimes, what happens is rather than forgiving, strengthening, and maintaining a quality relationship in the Lord, we hold on to the disappointment. We nurture the hurt, and we live in the pain. The result is that we ostracize people and they us. Repeat that enough times and you no longer have a congregation working together or with the shepherd. Forgiveness is a living dynamic doctrine offered by God, taught by our Lord Jesus, and available to saints in the church. Forgiveness makes life worth living, relationships sweet, and long pastorates possible.

For sometime Southern Baptists have struggled with their identity, sought to return to their Biblical foundations, and squabbled over issues. I

have often thought that what others were attempting to do and be was simply to come to where many of our Mississippi pastors like Bill Stewart have always been: Christ honoring, Bible believing, missions supporting, people loving servants! Maybe that is why a chairman of a pastor search committee from another state called me about one of our pastors. After he asked me a series of questions I asked, "What are you really looking for in a pastor?" The chairman said, "Well, we are not really sure. In fact, there is some disagreement within the committee about what we really need to find. The only thing that we are fully in agreement on is that we want a Mississippi pastor." Interested in what that meant I simply asked, "What does that mean you are looking for?" The chairman said, "What we have discovered is that Mississippi preachers believe and preach the Bible and care about the people." That is what FBC Eupora and hundreds of other friends joined to celebrate with their shepherd and his family — thank you Brother Bill and First Baptist Church.

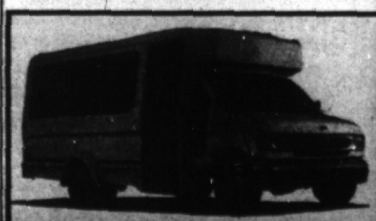
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Proposed 2005 Cooperative Program Budget

	2004 Budget	2005 Budget	Percent of Total	Dollar Incr/Decr	Percent Incr/Decr
Southern Baptist Convention					
Southern Baptist Convention Budget Formula:					
Annuitant Board	83,388	84,549	0.27%	1,241	1.49%
Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission	160,446	162,835	0.52%	2,389	1.49%
International Mission Board	5,399,620	5,480,036	17.50%	80,416	1.49%
North American Mission Board	2,462,227	2,498,806	7.98%	36,579	1.49%
SBC Operating	357,918	363,248	1.16%	5,330	1.49%
SBC Seminaries	2,335,721	2,370,507	7.57%	34,786	1.49%
Total	10,799,340	10,960,071	35.00%	160,831	1.49%
Shared Responsibilities - SBC Matching Portion					
Church Assembly	951,436	945,684	3.02%	(5,752)	(0.60%)
Total	951,436	945,684	3.02%	(5,752)	(0.60%)
Mississippi Institutions and Agencies					
Baptist Children's Village	515,042	549,218	1.75%	34,176	6.64%
Board of Ministerial Education	388,444	388,444	1.21%	0	0.00%
Christian Action Commission	308,435	328,259	1.05%	19,824	6.43%
Christian Education	5,248,076	5,327,287	17.81%	79,211	1.49%
Christian Education Capital Needs	666,283	676,211	2.16%	9,928	1.49%
Historical Commission	68,328	61,118	0.20%	(7,210)	(1.05%)
Mississippi Baptist Foundation	407,549	416,311	1.33%	8,762	2.15%
Mississippi Baptist Health Systems					
Baptist Memorial Health Systems (1/3 owned by MS)					
Total	7,587,157	7,758,838	24.71%	171,681	2.26%
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board					
Baptist Record	662,762	684,583	2.22%	21,821	3.29%
Church & Community Impact	178,267	188,581	0.60%	10,314	5.77%
Church Growth	218,688	224,984	0.72%	6,296	2.88%
Church Music	451,260	458,793	1.47%	7,533	1.67%
Church Planting	571,111	611,122	1.31%	40,011	6.99%
Church-Ministry Relations	775,431	777,980	0.09%	2,549	0.33%
College Ministry	1,638,981	1,741,357	5.56%	102,376	6.19%
Communication Services	417,198	468,684	1.50%	51,486	12.34%
Computer Information Services	321,108	258,986	0.83%	(62,122)	(19.35%)
Convention & Convention Committees	104,100	99,550	0.32%	(4,550)	(4.37%)
Discipleship & Family Ministry	685,977	705,719	2.25%	19,742	2.87%
Evangelism	225,898	312,825	1.00%	86,927	38.48%
Executive Administration	434,624	428,789	1.34%	(5,835)	(1.34%)
Golfcourse Assembly	498,862	363,316	1.16%	(135,546)	(27.17%)
Men's Ministry	545,483	582,530	1.89%	37,047	6.79%
Missions Mobilization	458,000	458,000	1.44%	0	0.00%
Missions Strategy	518,323	535,120	1.71%	16,797	3.22%
Pastor/Leadership Development	282,964	291,835	0.93%	8,871	3.14%
Resource Services/Rec. & Pers. Services/Annuity	719,486	748,132	2.40%	28,646	3.98%
Stewardship	212,838	215,686	0.70%	2,848	1.34%
Sunday School	615,259	575,130	1.84%	(40,129)	(6.53%)
Synodized Relationships / Teams	115,000	126,780	0.40%	11,780	10.17%
Worship's Ministry Union	828,934	901,117	2.80%	72,183	8.71%
Youth Weeks	51,400	51,400	0.16%	0	0.00%
Capital Needs	500,000	548,679	1.75%	48,679	9.74%
Total	11,517,138	11,668,898	37.37%	151,760	1.31%
Total Cooperative Program Budget					
	30,854,871	31,314,493	100.00%	459,625	1.49%
Charge Portion Percentages:					
Christian Education			50%		
International Missions			25%		
New Church Starts in MS			25%		

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Homecomings & Revivals

Hickory, Hickory: Homecoming September 26; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; dinner will follow; afternoon singing, 1:30 p.m.; David Sellers, guest preacher; Embrace, singing.

Sunflower, Sunflower: Revival September 26-29; Sunday, 11 a.m.; nightly, 7 p.m.; devotional service Mon.-Wed. at 10 a.m. with sack lunch following; Gene Henderson, former pastor, preaching; Mark Manning, Carriage Hills, Southaven, music evangelist; all are invited; Ed Wood, pastor.

Endville, Belden: 100th Anniversary September 19; celebration, 10 a.m.; a history will be on display; local singing and preaching; lunch will be provided; all are invited.

Herbert, Neshoba: Revival September 18-22; Sat., 6 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Don Taylor,

evangelist; James Gallaway, music; Mark McDonald, pastor.

First Pecan Grove, Ellisville: Homecoming September 26; The Magnolia Boys, 10 a.m.; service will follow; Dave Moran, former pastor, preaching; dinner on the grounds will follow.

Fredonia, New Albany: September 19-22; 7 p.m. nightly; Duane and Iris Blue, Atlanta, Ga., evangelists; Greg Beatty, First, Aberdeen, music; Chris Aldridge, pastor.

Bigbee, Amory: Homecoming September 19; worship, 10:30 a.m.; lunch at noon; singing, 1:30 p.m.; Truman Carter, preaching; Saving Grace, singing; Tommy Whaley, pastor.

Military, Sumrall: 100th Anniversary September 26; Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m.; a covered dish lunch will follow; Mike Aultman, pastor.

Ramah, Franklin County: Revival September 19-22; Sunday, 11 a.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; a covered dish meal will be served daily; David McGuffee, Natchez, preaching; Marvin Curtis, music.

Mt. Olive, Meridian: Revival September 26-29; Sunday, 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Bobby Shurden, evangelist; Danny Davis, pastor.

First, Benndale: Homecoming and Revival September 19-24; Sunday, 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. with a covered dish following; Bernice Havard, speaker; New River Boys, Sunday afternoon singing; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m. nightly; Kenneth Goff, Pearl, preaching; Simon Erkhart, pastor.

Pinckney, Newton Association: Homecoming September 26; a fellowship meal will follow morning worship; gospel singing, 2-4 p.m.; Don Taylor, evangelist; Mike Fondren, Sr., pastor.

New Hope, Foxworth: Homecoming October 3; worship, 11 a.m.; a covered dish lunch will be served; evening worship, 6:30 p.m.; Kent Campbell, preaching; Monroe McManus, music; Hosanna in concert in evening service; all are invited.

Rawls Springs, Hattiesburg: Revival September 19-22; Sunday, 10 a.m., dinner on the grounds will follow, and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., lunch devotionals at noon and 7 p.m.; James Messer, evangelist; Jeff Coates, music.

First, Sardis: 160th Anniversary September 26; worship, 10:30 a.m.; potluck meal at noon; singing and fellowship, 1:30 p.m.; Jim Didlake, MBCB, speaker; Wayne Brown, Joe Meurrier, Bobby Whittington, Rob Ray,

and Bob Dees, guests; W.G. "Jerry" Sanford, pastor; David Lunceford, minister of music.

Mount Carmel, Smith County: 150th Anniversary September 26; worship, 10:30 a.m.; lunch at noon; afternoon singing will follow; all are welcome.

Rocky Point, Carthage: Homecoming September 26; worship, 10:45 a.m.; lunch at noon; singing at 1:30 p.m. with New Born and the youth choir; Tim Tolleson, speaker; Marshall Lum, pastor.

Kreole Ave., Moss Point: Revival September 19-23; Sunday, 10:30 a.m., dinner on the ground following, and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 7 p.m.; Terry Long; Lily Orchard, Moss Point, preaching; for more information, call (228) 475-1306.

Robinson, Liberty: 120th Anniversary September 26; Old Fashion Day; gospel singing and dinner on the ground; all are welcome; W. R. Lowery, pastor; for more information, call (601) 783-2117.

Neely, Neely: Revival September 26-30; Sun.-Thru., 7 p.m.; Don Taylor, evangelist; Lou Dunnam, music; J. Wilbur Hall, pastor.

Trinity Church, Laurel: Revival September 19-22; Sunday, 10:30 a.m. with covered dish lunch to follow and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Paul Roney, evangelist; Tal Vardaman, music; Stephen Smith, pastor.

Williamsville Church, Kosciusko: Revival September 26-29; Sunday, 9:45 a.m., 10:45 a.m., and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed. 7p.m. with a Wednesday morning service at 11:50 a.m. and lunch to follow; Scott Smith, evangelist; Bill Salley, music.

Former pastor, R.E. Courtney, dies in Georgia

Services for **Rutledge Elwood Courtney** of Thomasville, Ga., were held September 1 at Dawson Street Church with interment in the Salem Cemetery, Pavo, Ga. Courtney died August 29 at his residence.

Courtney served in the United States Army during World War II. He graduated from Mississippi College and NOBTS, and first served as pastor in 1948 in Mississippi.

Survivors include: his wife, Merle Walley Courtney; daughter, Becky Rainey; sons, John Courtney and Mark Courtney; eight grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren; brothers, Morris Courtney and Jack Courtney; and sister Esther Hicks.

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October 21 Transfer Night
October 30 Senior Day
January 15 All High School Students
February 19 Male Call
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COLLEGE & SEMINARY NEWS

Mississippi College has been ranked in the Top Tier among Southern Universities Masters level as reported in the 2005 edition of America's Best Colleges from U.S. News and World Report. MC is ranked #26 this year overall and #9 on the Best Values list. Overall ranking is based on peer assessment, average freshman retention, average graduation rate, percent of classes under 20, percent of classes of 50 or more, student/faculty ratio, percent of faculty who are full-time, SAT/ACT percentiles, freshman in top 25% of HS class, acceptance rate, and average alumni giving. The best values list is based on the school's academic quality, as indicated by its U.S. News ranking and net cost of attendance for a student who receives the average level of financial aid.

The **Clarke College** Classes of 1959, 1960, and 1961, will hold a reunion at Lake Tiak-O'Khata, Louisville, October 16 from noon-4 p.m. Their emcee will be Benton Goodman and part of the program will be a sharing time if you have been on a mission trip. On October 15 a meal and fellowship will be held in Raven Annex from 4-10 p.m. and will be sponsored by David and Ina Patterson Weekley, pdiw@worldnet.att.net, (251) 666-2175, Maxine Wilson Churchwell, nanich3@msn.com, (601) 845-0542, and Annie Laurie Fleming Thornton, TheThorntons@bell-south.net, (601) 856-4744.

The **BSU at Delta State University** will hold their 75th Anniversary September 18 beginning at 9 a.m. to welcome alumni in the Baptist Student



Nettles Nettles has been named interim chair of the new Mississippi College Department of Computer Science and Physics. Nettles graduated from MC and obtained his masters and doctorate degrees from Vanderbilt University. In 1983, Nettles returned to MC as a faculty member to teach courses in physics, mathematics, and computer science.

John Travis has been named interim chair of the Mississippi College Department of mathe-

atics. Travis graduated from MC and earned his masters degree from the University of Tennessee and his doctorate from MSU. He has been a member of the MC faculty since 1988, spending the past six years serving as director of the MC Community Service Center.

Mississippi College music professor **James Sclater** has received the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers Award for the 2004-2005 year, making this the 14th consecutive year Sclater

has won. The award is based on the prestige value of the composer's catalog and the prolific number of compositions. Sclater has been a member of the MC faculty since 1970. He is a graduate of USM and the University of Texas.

Six students were named **William Carey College Scholars**, the highest award

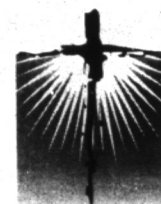
given to first-time freshman, and honored at an awards dinner on August 27, Hattiesburg campus. The scholarship covers full tuition for four years. The Scholars are pictured from left (back) Heath McNeese, Franklinton, La.; McKenzie Cole Beilmann, Hattiesburg; (front) Elise Burton, Ellisville; Jenny Goar, Hattiesburg; Tracey Martin, Hot Springs, S.D.; and Grace Smith, Sumrall. Students who will be first-time freshmen can obtain applications for the WCC Scholars grant, Mississippi Eminent Scholars Grant Program, and other merit or talent based scholarships by calling (601) 318-6103.

Eleven graduates were inducted into the **Joseph and Nancy Fail School of Nursing Honor Society at William Carey College** recently. Members include Lxchelle Robinson, Arceneaux, La Place, La.; Joyce Christian, Gulfport; Jerryl McGowan Collins, Hattiesburg; Tammy Croney, Picayune; Regina Anita Floyd, Gulfport; Charlotte Foy, New Orleans, La.; Verena Humbles Johnson, Hattiesburg; Arlene Jones,



WCC Scholars

Slidell; Lee Lancaster, Petal; Micheal Lavin, Kenner, La.; and Erica Walters Smith, Laurel. The Honor Society is a charter chapter of the International Honor Society of Nursing - Sigma Theta Tau. The WCC School of Nursing is located on three campuses, Hattiesburg, Gulfport, and New Orleans, La.



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

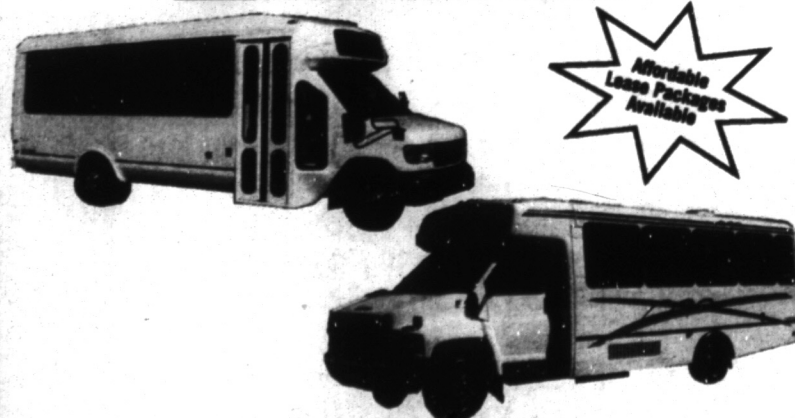
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MEET MUHAMMAD.
HE LIVES IN POVERTY. HE STRUGGLES
TO FIND FOOD. HE HAS NEVER HEARD
THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST.
HE IS DYING.

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What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

September 16, 2004

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

Attention: All Lads, Crusaders, & Challengers

RA

Day



**SATURDAY
OCTOBER 16**

**Mississippi College
Grades 1-12**

9 a.m.-5 p.m.

\$5 per person

Be There!

Sponsored by the
Men's Ministry Department
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

For more information, contact the Men's Ministry Department

AREA KEYBOARD FESTIVALS - 2005

AREA	LOCATION	FESTIVAL LEADER	PHONE
Thursday, January 27, 2005 - 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.			
Area 2	Calvary BC, 501 W. Main, Tupelo, 38801 (All Categories)	David Prevost	C-662-842-3338
Area 4	Fairview BC, 127 Airline Rd., Columbus, 39702 (All Categories)	Slater Murphy	C-662-328-2924
Area 5	Morrison Heights BC, 201 Morrison Dr., Clinton, 39056 (Categories I, IA only)	Carol Durham	C-601-924-5620
Area 6	Fifteenth Avenue BC, 1318 15th Ave., Meridian, 39301 (All Categories)	Ken Patterson	C-601-485-4113
Area 7	FBC, 1700 Delaware Ave., McComb, 39648 (All Categories)	Greg Stone	C-601-684-2971
Area 8	FBC, 510 W. Pine, Hattiesburg, 39401 (All Categories)	Kathy Vail	C-601-544-0100
Area 8	FBC, 605 W. Fifth Street, Laurel, 39442 (All Categories)	Joy Hughlett Jimmy Little	C-601-649-5710
Friday, January 28, 2005 - 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.			
Area 1	Hernando BC, 11 E. Center St., Hernando, 38632 (All Categories)	Barry Tweedy	C-662-421-6361
Area 5	Crossgates BC, 8 Crosswoods Rd., Brandon, 39042 (Categories II, IIA, III, IV only)	Tommy Creel	C-601-825-2562
Area 9	FBC, 902 Live Oaks Ave., Pascagoula, 39567 (All Categories)	Michaelle Harrison	C-228-762-2343
Saturday, January 29, 2005 - 9:30 a.m. - noon			
Area 3	FBC, 741 S. Line St., Grenada, 38901 (All Categories)	Andy Cummings	C-662-226-3661
Area 3	North Greenwood BC, 615 Grand Blvd. Greenwood, 38935 (All Categories)	Patricia Ethridge Tommy Smith	C-662-453-2801
Area 5	Alta Woods BC, 168 Colonial Dr., Jackson, 39204	Wyndy South	O-601-292-3272

Start planning now to have the children and youth from your church
and studio participate in the 2005 Area Keyboard Festivals.



Gray family
Missionaries



Mandisa Hundley
Music



Schmitz family
Missionaries

Mississippi WMU Annual Missions Celebration

Emmanuel Baptist Church
Grenada • October 8-9, 2004

Mississippi WMU's
final 125th anniversary
celebration

FRIDAY SESSIONS

Worship at 12:45 p.m.

Breakout sessions at 3-3:45 & 4-4:45 p.m.

Worship at 6:30 p.m.

SATURDAY SESSIONS

Breakfast for former and current members of
Mississippi WMU Executive Board at 7:30 a.m.

Breakout session at 9-9:45 a.m.

Closing worship celebration from 10 a.m.
until 12:15 p.m.

Child care will be provided by registration only.
Call Kerron Moorman at 662.226.5316. Reservations
will be taken up to two weeks before the event.

Attala Baptist Association
Impacting Your World Rally

for YOUTH

Dr. Simpson John Busby
Singer Worship Leader

Sunday, September 19, 6 p.m.
First Baptist Church (SON Bldg.)
Kosciusko

Attala Assoc. Impacting Your World

Sunday, September 19, 2004, 6 p.m.
First Baptist Church, Kosciusko

CHIP HENDERSON – pastor: Pine Lake BC,
Speaker Brandon

ASSOCIATION
MASS CHOIR
Music

TINA HUDSON
Testimony

Exhibits 5 p.m. The Commons, FBC, Kosciusko

Attala Baptist Association

Children's Discipleship Rally

Jan Halford

Ventriloquist &
Music Evangelist

Sunday
September 19
6 p.m.

FBC Gym, Kosciusko

Mississippi Baptist Ministers' Wives Conference



OUR GUEST SPEAKER

Gaye Martin

October 25, 2004

First Baptist Church, Jackson
(Fifth Floor)

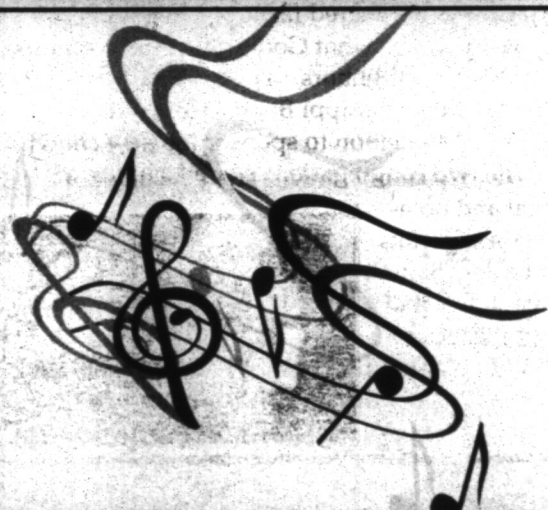
1:15 to 4:45 p.m.

For more info:

Contact the Pastor/Leadership
Development Department

Phone: 800.748.1651 ext.305
or 601.292.3305

E-mail: kmcdonnell@mbcb.org



MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

in a Worship Concert

October 3, 6 p.m.

FBC, Byram

THE SUIT PROJECT

Mississippi Baptists say
"Merry Christmas"
to pastors in the
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Get all decked out!

What is it?

For over 40 years Mississippi Baptists have enjoyed sending new suits to the pastors in new work areas. This is our way of letting the pastors in these areas of Southern Baptist life know that we care about and support them in their work.

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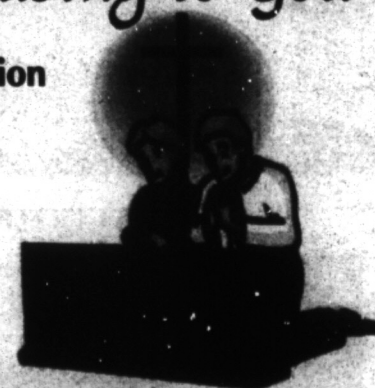
2 p.m., Tuesday, October 12 – Registration
Concludes with lunch on Thursday

Worship Leader – Bill Causey, Clinton

Pianist – Irene Martin

Organist – Dot Pray

Choir – Lamar Association Choir



"Share Jesus without Fear" – Sonny Adkins, MCB

"Making the Best of a Bad Situation" – Dionne Williams, Gulfport

"Prayers of Jesus" – Kevin Meadows, Decatur

"Healing Power of Humor" – Kandi Anderson, Gulfport

"Why Must I go through the Wilderness?" – James Haynes, Biloxi

"Leadership" – Roger Alewine

Seafood Banquet & Ice Cream Fellowship

For more information, contact Glenn Shows, Discipleship and Family Ministry
Department: 601-292-3373, 1-800-748-1651 or gshows@mbcb.org.

Pray this day for...

September 17 - October 7, 2004

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone (601) 292-3304 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-7729 (PRAY)

"What is a Light House of Prayer? It's a cluster of two or more believers banded together to pray for, care about, and share the blessings of Christ with their neighbors."

*Alvin J. Vander Griend, Director of Houses of Prayer Everywhere, Grand Rapids, Michigan**

For: (1) Anti-Gambling (CAC Emphasis); (2) Pray for a spiritual awakening for the Greeks, and pray that the gospel witness that went on during the Olympics will produce a harvest of souls. Ask that the Greeks' hearts be open to the gospel and that many will accept Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

There are over 200 barrios in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, crammed with thousands of hurting people in each barrio. In many of them, spiritual darkness covers them like a blanket. Please pray that God's Spirit and truth would penetrate these barrios and pull back this cover of darkness.

For: (1) On Mission to Share Jesus (EVAN Emphasis); (2) Veteran missionaries Vie and Sharon Johnson moved to a northeastern Brazil coastal city and began working with fishermen in several villages. "... Pray for the village of Torto. One man, P, attempts to counteract all that the Brazilian missionary pastor tries to do."

For: (1) Discipleship Rally (D&FM Emphasis); (2) Church Related Vocations Banquet, William Carey College, Hattiesburg, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. (P/LD); (3) January Bible Study, TBA (SS); (4) Pray today for President Vicente Fox Quesada of Mexico (southern North America).

Pray for M, a German-Brazilian, who attends a house church every week. During one of the discussion-based Bible studies, he acknowledged that he was guilty of idolatry. He said that he can see man studying the Bible that he is not to worship anyone or anything except God. Pray that M would come to know Christ as Savior and Lord.

For: (1) Church Related Vocations Banquet, Clinton, 6 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. (P/LD); (2) Please pray for President Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria (western Africa south of Niger).

For: (1) January Bible Study, TBA (SS); (2) Gregg and Janine Farah are church planters in Lower Manhattan, N.Y. (Ground Zero area). Pray that they will connect with influencers in both the professional and artistic communities, and that these individuals will encourage many to make decisions for Christ.

Team Paris Central requests: "Petition the Lord to guide us as we create a new ministry model in order to reach the young adult population of urban Paris. We hope to create a ministry model that will multiply repeatedly until Christ transforms every Parisian."

For: (1) Student Day, Baptist Building, Jackson (P/LD); (2) Team Ivanovo, Russia writes: "In efforts to reach business men and women, we will be hosting a HighMark business seminar Nov 8-12. Christian businessmen from Texas will lead it. Pray for opportunities to share the gospel and for those who hear it to respond."

Many people from South Asia, North Africa and the Middle East are moving to Kampala, Uganda. The majority come to start businesses and others to reclaim family property taken during the time of Idi Amin. Most are wealthy and live behind iron gates and brick walls. Pray for open doors to share the gospel.

Vip and Carrie Vipperman, missionaries in Kaohsiung, Taiwan, ask for your prayers. They were asked by their manager to host an event at a local bar for the residents of the complex. They told him they could not do this. They ask you to pray that the Lord will change the heart of their manager and strengthen their ministry.

For: (1) Baptist Building Staff AT HOME DAYS, 6th - 8th; (2) Continue to pray for adequate rain for the Zerma people of Niger. The rainy season started very late in many parts of Niger, and there is some concern that the growing season won't be long enough to produce a good harvest.

For: (1) January Bible Study, TBA (SS); (2) Please intercede for a new group of believers among the Balinese of Indonesia who are worshipping in a more traditional style.

For: (1) Church Related Vocations Banquet, Blue Mountain College (P/LD); (2) Harold and Nora Gault of Colorado Springs, Co., are MSC missionaries who help build, repair, and remodel churches and denominational buildings. Pray that the Lord will direct them to the projects that He has planned. Pray for their safety.

For: (1) Campers On Mission Rally, CHBR, Kosciusko, 7th - 10th (MM); (2) Steve Hughes, El Portal, Calif., directs the CrossWay ministries in Yosemite National Park. Pray for a new worship location at a community building closer to employee housing. Pray for the 20 young adults serving with CrossWay that their friends would believe.

For: (1) Volunteer Chaplains' Training, Baptist Building, Sky Room, 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. (CPD); (2) Missionary Parents Fellowship Missionary Kids Retreat, Camp Garaywa, Clinton, 2 p.m., 17th-1 p.m., 18th (WMU); (3) State Handbell Seminar, Wynnale BC, Terry, 6:30 p.m., 17th-noon, 18th. (CM)

For: (1) State College Student Conference, Hattiesburg, 24th - 25th (CLGM); (2) Piano/Organ/Keyboard Workshop, Oak Forest BC, Jackson, 24th-25th (CM); (3) Paul Wilson is a command chaplain in Hawaii. Pray for changed lives as many return from Iraq and for new believers to be bold and to share what Jesus means to them.

For: (1) State Church Library Ministry Conference, FBC, Corinth, 1st - 2nd (CS); (2) Jeff Barbour, New Albany, Md., works with Graceland BC as a chaplain with the Indiana State Police. Pray for the anointing of the Holy Spirit in proclaiming the gospel and in reaching the troopers.

For: (1) Mississippi Missionaries, TBA, 8:30 a.m. - noon (WMU); (2) Pray for R, a devout Sundanese, West Java, Indonesia. She spent many hours with a believer and asked many questions. R is searching. Pray that her spiritual eyes will be opened.

A group of 18 Brazilian Baptist missionaries are in language school in Dakar, Senegal. At the end of October, this group will spread out over West Africa to share the gospel with many who have not heard. Pray for these 18 as they study the French language and adjust to new cultures and customs.

Please pray for Christian leaders in the city of Mission Laishi, Argentina. They have started six Bible study groups with non-believers. Pray that the leaders will be faithful in sharing the Word of God with non-believers. Pray also that the non-believers attending these Bible studies will accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior.



Missions Mobilization CELEBRATION

Friday, November 12

FBC, Jackson, 425 North State Street

- Celebration Banquet - 6:30 p.m.
- Mobilization Displays - Ukraine
- Music by Mississippi Singing Churchmen
- Ukraine Guests: Grigoriy Komendant, Vladimir Shemchisin, Bronislav Zilkovsky and Tanya Puzanova
- International Mission Board Guests: Mick Stockwell and Kirby and Linda Smith

Saturday, November 13

Baptist Building, 515 Mississippi Street

Team Leaders for 2005

- Continental Breakfast - 8:30 a.m.
- Devotional
- Planning Ukraine Emphasis

You are invited to this exciting time of celebrating what God is doing through Mississippi volunteers. You will meet and hear the stories of many of these volunteers.

Banquet Cost: \$10

Reservations are required by November 4.

Call 601-292-3398 by November 4.

Ukraine

Ageless GA Mother/Daughter Overnight October 22-23, 2004

Mother/Daughter overnight is a special time for mothers and their GA daughters (ages 5 to 105+) to share the excitement of missions learning. Activities include worship, campfire, crafts, recreation and a missionary visit. All overnights begin at 5 p.m. on Friday and end at 2 p.m. on Saturday.

Cost: \$35.00 - Deadline: October 8th

If space is still available after the deadline date, reservations will be accepted at the cost of \$40 per person. No refunds after the deadline date.

- Please mail in your registration with payment to:
Camp Garaywa, 312 Camp Garaywa Rd., Clinton, MS 39056
- Reservations may not be made by phone. Groups wishing to bunk together must register together.
- Whenever possible, please send one check for the entire group.

HOUSE TOPS

JUST FOR THE RECORD



Charles Hodges and Family.

Charles Hodges, pastor, his wife Becky, and their daughters Hannah, Sarah, and Lydia are pictured in the new framework for the new sanctuary and office building of Center Church, Blue Springs.

Brian Knight, Alan Hill, Johnny Beaver, pastor, and Gene Naill of Calvary Church, Pascagoula, attended the Promise Keepers Rally in Atlanta during August.

Immanuel Church, Columbus, recently dedicated their new school grades K4 to 12. The school has been in existence for 25 years in the same buildings as the church until now. There are 300 students presently enrolled.

Pictured (from left) are Roy McKay, pastor, Ronnie Kelley, Mike McGill, Gary White, Jason Minga, Gene Coleman, and Will Cumberland.

Leflore Church, Holcomb, will hold a Christian Cowboy Trail Ride and Singing September 25 beginning at 9 a.m. Lunch will be provided to riders for \$10. A concession stand will have fish plates for \$7. All proceeds go toward the building fund. For more information, call (662) 453-7644 or (662) 226-1259.

Children and youth recently participated in Bible Drills at **New Zion Church, Crystal Springs.** Pictured are the participants.

Brewer Church, Shannon will present The Chosen Vessel, a sermon on the potter's wheel by Keith Carpenter, September 19 at 7 p.m. Sean Tutor is pastor.

Cedar View Church, Olive Branch, will hold a community singing September 18 at 6 p.m. featuring The Bluff City Quartet. For more information, call (662) 895-2661.



Bible Drill Participants of New Zion Church, Crystal Springs



Immanuel Church School Ribbon Cutting, Columbus

Staff Changes

Brian Tillman has been called as pastor of First Church, Coldwater. Tillman, a graduate of Blue Mountain College and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C., is currently attending Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky. The church recently held a welcoming reception for the Tillmans.



Tillman

Brad Day has joined the staff of Petal-Harvey Church, Petal, as Minister of Music. He comes from Agricola Church, Lucedale.



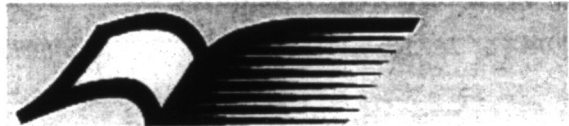
First Church of Glendale, Hattiesburg, welcomed **James E. Hill** as pastor June 1. He is a graduate of William Carey College and NOBTS. Hill's pastorates include First Church, Lumberton, and First Church of Myrick, Laurel.

First Church, Jackson, has called **Gwen Jenkins** as Minister to Preschool. Jenkins attended Ole Miss and Southwestern Seminary in Ft. Worth. She comes from Hermitage Hills Church, Nashville.



Jenkins

MISSISSIPPI



BAPTISTS
CHURCH LIBRARY MINISTRY

33rd Annual CHURCH LIBRARY MINISTRY CONFERENCE

Training At The Crossroads

October 1&2, 2004

First Baptist Church, Corinth, Miss.

Friday, 9am - 8:15 pm & Saturday, 8am - 12:15 pm



Robin Jones Gunn

Dinner Speaker - Robin Jones Gunn, Portland, Oregon

A best-selling, award-winning author of over 46 books with 3 million copies of her titles sold worldwide.

Program Personalities Include:

Beth Andrews, Dallas, Texas • Mary Broussard, Denham Springs, Louisiana •
Suzanne Burton, Huntsville, Alabama • Stephen Gateley, Nashville, Tennessee •
Rita Kirkland, Eules, Texas • Carolyn Walker, Chickamauga, Georgia

Cost per person - \$20. The registration fee includes lunch, dinner, and registration packet.

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JUST FOR THE RECORD

Laura Sipes of First Church, Greenville, recently received an award for eight years perfect attendance in the Children's Choir.



Sipes exceeded its goal of \$5,000 for Annie Armstrong Offering to support North American Missions by giving a final total of \$5,163.11. John H. Pace, Jr. is pastor.

Addie M. Holloway of Valley Park Church, Valley Park, completed 53 years of perfect attendance in Sunday School August 1. Micheal Enzine is pastor.



The GAs of First Church, Senatobia, recently participated in a recognition service to celebrate their year of mission projects and mission support.

Bunker Church Church, Columbia, broke ground for the construction of two new buildings July 25. Pictured (from left) are Randy Gardner, pastor, Doug Maird, James Robbins, Tim Buckley, Jennifer Douglas, and Trish Duncan.

Gunter Road Church, Florence, sent a mission crew to help with construction on the future home of Central Church, Gardendale, Ala. Pictured from left (front) are Jerney "Bear" Jordan, Curtis Wicker, Gene Jordan, pastor, (back) Jeff Rowzee, Irving Forrester, John Allen, Jeff Parker, and Dann Fabian.

RAs and their leaders of First Church McLaurin, Hattiesburg, traveled to Flint Creek, Wiggins, for a 2 day outing July 16 and 17. Activities included a scavenger hunt, swimming, and devotionals with Fishers of Men as the theme.

Twenty-one senior adults of First Church McLaurin, Hattiesburg, met for an afternoon of fun and games, and a catfish meal July 28.

Thirty-one children and five adults from First Church McLaurin, Hattiesburg, had

an afternoon and evening of fellowship June 26. They traveled to Petal enjoying a meal and skating.

Danna Stovall recently won the Mayor's Prize Patrol for having perfect attendance in Sunday School at First Church, Brandon. Pictured are Stovall and her family with Beth Allen, children's minister, and Mayor Roe Grubbs.

First Church, Amory, awarded Jenny Harrington a \$6,500 scholarship for the 2004-05 school year from the Lawrence and Louise Palmer Scholarship



Children of First Church McLaurin, Hattiesburg

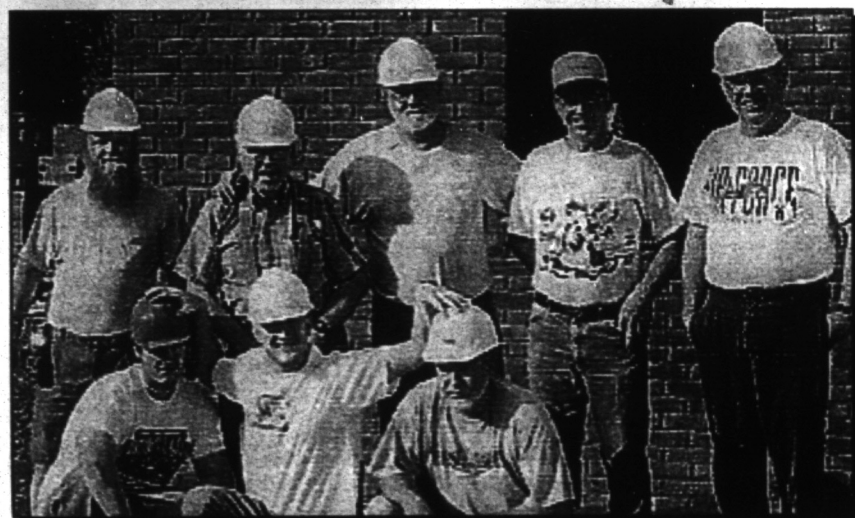
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Mission Trip participants of Gunter Road Church, Florence



Bunker Hill Church Groundbreaking, Columbia



Prize Patrol Winner Danna Stovall of First Church, Brandon



GAs of First Church, Senatobia

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STAFF POSITIONS IN JACKSON church, music minister: lead traditional worship, direct adult, children's choirs. Also, minister of education with duties in outreach and children's ministry. Possibly combine these positions into full-time position for right person. Send inquiries to personnel committee, P.O. Box 13675, Jackson, MS 39236 by September 29.

ORGANIST POSITION, WYNNDAL Baptist Church. Call Bob Jones at (601) 371-2429 or fax resume to the same number.

CHURCH PIANIST NEEDED, Grandview Baptist Church, 900 South

Pearson Rd., Pearl, Miss. 39208. Wednesdays 7:30 - 8:30 pm and Sundays 10:30 am - 11:30 am and 6:30 pm. \$100 per week. Please contact Mike Hennington at (601) 624-9389 or call the church office at (601) 939-4215.

PARKWAY BAPTIST CHURCH, Hernando, Miss., is currently seeking a part-time children's director. Send resumes to personnel ministry team, Parkway Baptist Church, 50 N. Parkway, Hernando, MS 38632. For more information call (662) 429-6045.

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH, Pascagoula, Miss., is accepting resumes for a full-time minister of music and youth. Must be willing to work in both areas of ministry and be able to work with choirs. Resumes can be sent to P.O. Box 2278, Pascagoula, MS 39569. Or can be emailed to pastorjohnny@bellsouth.net. Anyone with questions call (228) 762-1338.

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Gifts of Honor & Memory

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

AUGUST 28 -
SEPTEMBER 12, 2004

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MEMORIAL - AUGUST 9, 2004

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FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

Knowing God Through Jesus

John 14:1-14

By Geneva England

Pause to meditate on these prophetic words spoken by Jesus: "Many will say to me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?' And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity" (Matt. 7:22-23).

In contrast to the religious world of Christ's time when the Jews believed that good works would earn them Heaven, Matthew warns that, as individuals, our belief must be in the risen Savior, Jesus Christ, who took on humanity in order to pay for our sins by living a perfect life, dying on the cross to bear our sins, and arising on the third day, triumphant over sin and death.

Praise God that He has mercifully provided each of us with a simple way to eternal salvation through Jesus rather than damning us to eternal punishment.

John 14:1 specifies that we must believe in God and in Christ. The in implies more than reading the historical account of a man named Jesus and believing in its historical accuracy; it means trusting Him as the only Son of God, who will deliver what He promises. By coupling the belief in both God and Christ, Jesus proclaims Himself as God made manifest in human form.

Both John and Paul provide the lost with excellent verses pointing the way to salvation. Specifically, Ephesians 2:8-9 stresses how one must believe in order to be saved: "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and



England

that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast." Good works do not save; rather, works should follow salvation because the believer loves God and wants to follow His commandments.

God's perfect plan for salvation follows this order: grace [God provides what we did not deserve], gift [God gives this salvation free of anything we do], faith [believers' attitude of obedience to God], and works. [God's special mission for us for His glory.]

Again, praise God that Jesus left the comforting words of John 14:1, "Let not your hearts be troubled." He was advising His disciples not to worry about their existence or about the massive campaign of the Pharisees and Sadducees to rid Israel of Jesus and his followers. The disciples' world had been shaken: (1) the traitor, Judas, had been a member of their group; (2) Jesus had announced His imminent depar-

ture; and (3) He had predicted Peter's denial. No wonder their hearts were heavy. How wonderful that Christ's comforting words help believers face the harshness of a sinful world and soothe our quaking hearts!

In order to claim "joy, joy, joy, down in our hearts," we must first trust in Christ, according to His Way, for salvation. Jesus stated, "I am the way, the truth, and the life" (v. 6). No one can work his or her way into Heaven—the eternal home where Christ is preparing "many mansions" for those who are truly His (v. 2). Furthermore, He promises to return in the future to collect all believers of all ages to abide with Him forever. Such hope is the basis of eternal peace with God.

Jesus' explanation in verse 6 forever dispels alternate "ways" to enter Heaven; therefore, we must examine our theology to make sure we believe His truth. First John 5:4-5 explains salvation thusly: "For everyone born of God overcomes the world....Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he that

believes that Jesus is the Son of God" [NIV]. Hence, those personally believing in Jesus as Savior know that "life" comes through this belief.

Remember, no one comes to the Father except through Jesus Christ (v. 6). This means quite emphatically that saying you believe in God is not enough: Belief in Jesus Christ as personal Savior is "the ONLY way, the ONLY truth, and the ONLY life" [emphasis added]. Christ is the way from earth to heaven, from dissatisfaction to satisfaction, and from damnation to salvation.

He reveals the truth about God the Father and God the Son when He declares "Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me" (v. 11). Furthermore, God empowers believers through answered prayers to carry on the work of Jesus Christ (vv. 12-14). What a blessing!

Work not for salvation but because of salvation.

England is member of First Church, Grenada.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

What Is Repentance?

Luke 3:1-16

By James Walters

When I went to Jones in the Winter Quarter of 1970 I met young men in the dormitory who shaped my life forever. Oddly enough the controversy which my roommates were embroiled over was not the war in Vietnam, but the issue of baptism. For the first time in my life I bought a Bible, and tried to follow their "discussions." They were living lives so differently from my own that their Bible Study sessions were proclamations of faith.

Quite naturally the study topic spilled over into repentance and its necessity in relation to baptism. I began to squirm. Within a few months I was living with such conviction that I repented of my sin, gave my life to Christ, and was baptized myself. Had my roommates never repented of their sins, their

Biblical debates would have been empty and meaningless to me.

The challenge of sharing the Gospel that leads to repentance is a task we are each called to accept. Our behavior is a language lost souls understand. We must speak that language. Our goal as believers is not to merely give the correct Gospel information, but to live lives that give evidence of genuine repentance.

REPENTANCE, BAPTISM, AND SIN, LUKE 3:1-3, 7-9.

When God called, John responded. John stepped into the purposes of God. He proclaimed a convincing message applicable to men and women, Jews and Gentiles, soldiers and priests. People flocked to hear John the Baptist say that there was something sinful people could do about their disappointing lives.



Walters

Forgiveness was granted those who repent. John's baptism did not bring forgiveness. Only God can forgive sin.

"If you repent of your sin," John preached, "God will forgive you." And He did. Those who repented were baptized by John. The repentant were assured that God had forgiven them. John's message had become a magnet which attracted all sorts of sinful people.

REPENTANCE AND LIFE, LUKE 3:10-14.

Sinners come in all descriptions. Some people unknowingly sin by hoarding the surplus goods they possess which could be used to meet the needs of others. How should repentance affect their behavior? John the Baptist said, "Give away that extra coat to someone who has none. Provide meals for the hungry out of your excess." Having the means to be a blessing, while at the same time refusing to be a blessing, is sinful. We should repent, and change that behavior.

Some people, like the tax col-

lectors in John's day, have professions that make large profits essentially by stealing from others. "Only take what is fair!" John demanded. To the soldiers who came, John warned them not to abuse their authority. "Don't be brutal doing your duty," he said. "Don't plant evidence and subvert justice by falsifying the truth. Stop complaining about your income, and be satisfied with the salary you accepted when you were hired." John's message of repentance emphasized a corresponding change in lifestyle.

REPENTANCE AND THE HOLY SPIRIT, 3:15-16.

So effective was John the Baptist that many began to conclude he was the Messiah. John addressed their misunderstanding. Unlike himself, the Christ would baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire. There is a difference.

Did not Jesus and his disciples baptize with water? Indeed they did, but the baptism of Christ went deeper. The Messiah's baptism was transforming. The Holy Spirit changed the nature and character of believers. The Spirit took up residence in the life of a

convert and produced change from the inside out. John didn't do that.

Those who place their faith in Christ are drawn to do so by the Holy Spirit. Salvation is a permanent, lifelong process of transformation which has a definite beginning, but no end. The fire symbolism of the Holy Spirit is that power which purges and cleanses. Impurities in their thinking and the infection of sinful habits from an old lifestyle are removed from those who believe. God doesn't want to wipe us out for our misbehavior, He wants to wipe us clean. John couldn't do that.

John said of himself that he was a "voice" crying out in the wilderness who prepared the way for Messiah. John was like a highway map. The map only shows us the way. John was the map, Jesus is he "way". There is a great deal of difference between knowing Highway 49 goes to Jackson and being on Highway 49 going to Jackson. We may know the way, but how many of us are on the way?

Walters is member of Temple Church, Hattiesburg.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be non-controversial; no articles should be inflammatory.

Articles should be submitted electronically to news@baptistrecord.com or by mail to: Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39201. FAX: (601) 933-3330.

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Articles and photographs are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lit.

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and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Requests to return photographs must be accompanied by a self-addressed, dated envelope.

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PRACTICAL PRINCIPLES



Volume 4

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE CHRISTIAN ACTION COMMISSION OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Issue 5

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ANTE UP MISSISSIPPI – IT'S TIME TO PAY THE FIDDLER

LEE YANCEY

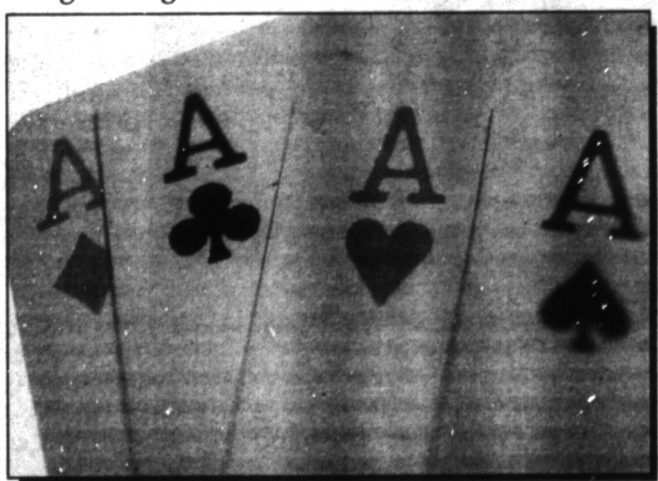


Yancey

Circling its prey like a tiger shark, casino gambling is closing in on Mississippi's residents and the social repercussions are devastating. We have been swallowing the bitter pill of promised economic prosperity for over a decade now and by the looks of things, whatever we have gained as a state, we have lost even more. There is no question that the gambling industry rakes in the cash. Across the country, slot machines alone take in more annually than McDonald's, Wendy's, Burger King, and Starbucks combined. That's more than a billion dollars. In 2003, Mississippi casinos "earned" nearly 2.7 billion dollars. From that amount, our legislature received over 167 million dollars in casino taxes in fiscal year 2004. The Bond Sinking Fund and the Highway Fund got over 54 million dollars and local governments in casino areas got more than 110 million dollars. That's a lot of money! With that money comes the power and influence to sustain its ongoing presence in our state. Barring a divine intervention, casinos will be here until Jesus comes.

Being that casino gambling is such an economic boon to our state, why is it that so many people are upset about their presence here? Maybe it's the way the casinos target elderly people who are at greater risk of becoming problem gamblers. At a recent workshop on problem gambling, a social worker reported that most television ads for casinos show young vivacious people dressed in fancy gowns. In reality, most of the people there are elderly, some are in wheelchairs, with oxy-

How can we hope to leave a great legacy to our children when our motto is "ante up and drink up" in the name of economic development?



gen containers parked next to them at slot machines, and there was even one on a gurney. Another workshop participant reported seeing a woman on a dog collar at a casino in Las Vegas. She had Alzheimer's and was pacing while her husband was playing. Casinos allure seniors with complimentary drinks, valet parking, and stage shows that feature swing-era big bands. Some senior adults use gambling as an emotional crutch to escape the loss of a spouse or poor health and are more likely to get hooked without a steady means of replacing their income.

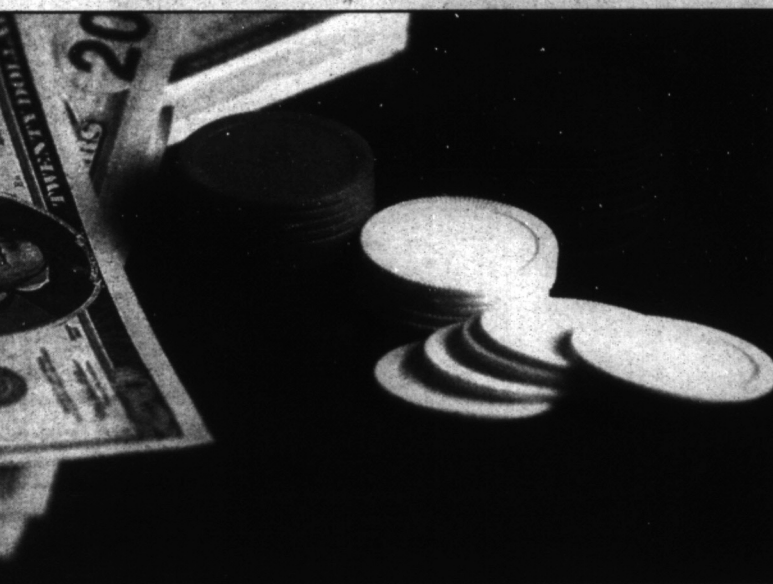
Another reason good people are upset is because more than half the people who income of less than \$20,000. Thirty-one percent gamble with money from pensions and 20 percent from social security. It is the reverse Robin Hood principle. The rich steal from the poor and keep it.

Another reason good people are upset is increased crime. Police Chief Chuck Bollen of Tunica County reported that drunk driving arrests increased by 500 percent the year after the casino came to town. On the coast, robberies increased requiring the hiring of more police officers. Pawn shops popped up all around casinos like moons orbiting a planet. Bankruptcies abounded and domestic violence statistics shot through the roof.

Another reason good people are upset is that all that casino money has not improved education or any particular thing that we can put our finger on. In many states, casino proponents often sell the voting public on the idea of gambling by promising that gambling revenues will increase school funding. Often that is not the case. One school administrator who recently moved from Illinois where he had served two different school districts says that the state legislature did put the gambling revenues into the school fund. But the money that would have normally gone into the school fund from regular state revenues was allocated to highways and hospitals, so there was little, if any, increase. In effect, the promise of increased education revenues can become a shell game and is frequently used as an emotional hook to get voters to approve gambling. In Mississippi, casino money hasn't seemed to solve our education needs.

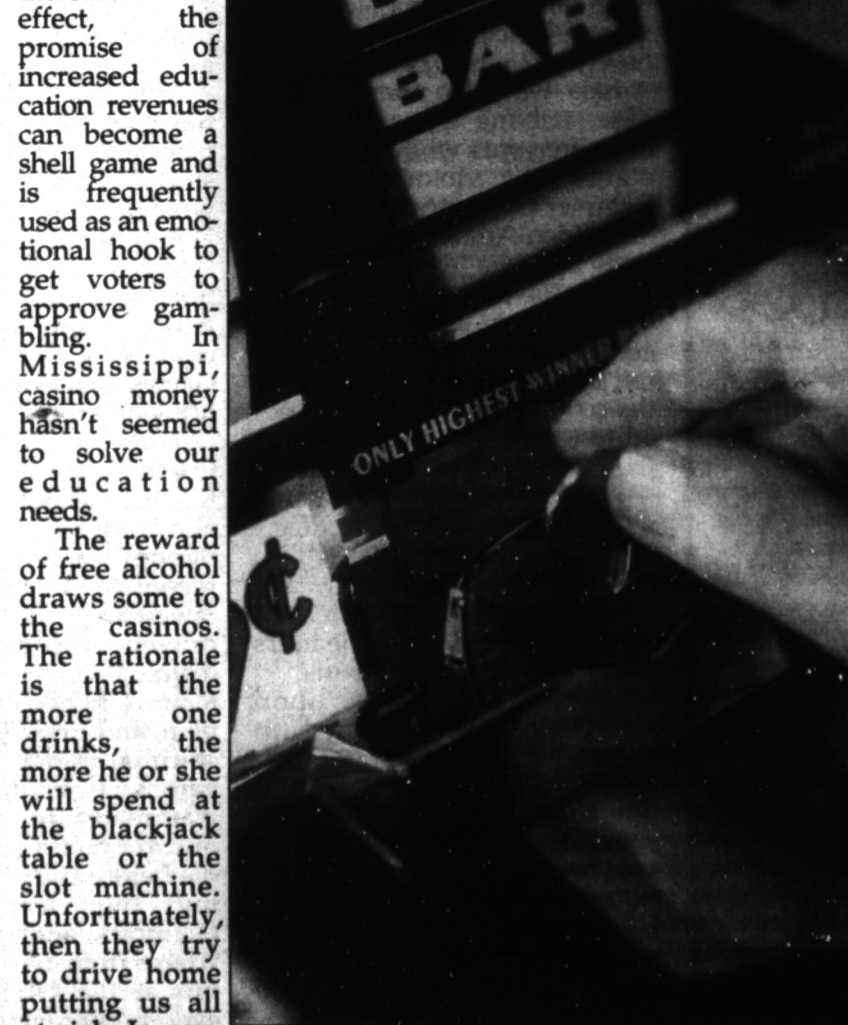
The reward of free alcohol draws some to the casinos. The rationale is that the more one drinks, the more he or she will spend at the blackjack table or the slot machine. Unfortunately, then they try to drive home putting us all at risk. In several counties in Mississippi, some citizens are working to change the status of their county from dry (alcohol-less)

to wet. Most use statements like "It's time for our county to move into the 21st century" or "We are getting left behind by missing out on all the tax dollars alcohol sales will provide." Tax dollars are not going to bring Amie Lynn Ewing back to life. Just weeks ago, this promising 23-year-old Ole Miss pharmacy student was run over and killed by a 19-year-old drunk driver. Tax dollars will never justify the countless sleepless nights of parents who will never see their children again because of drunk drivers.



Tax dollars do not comfort the wives who have alcoholic husbands. Tax dollars do not relieve the pain of the young lady who has suffered date-rape by an acquaintance under the influence of alcohol. When will we learn that we cannot build our communities on the backs of alcohol and casino gambling? It is like locking ourselves in a room with a King Cobra hoping it will protect us. Communities are built on more than money. They are made of strong families, small businesses, great schools, churches, and hard-working men and women. How can we hope to leave a great legacy to our children when our motto is "ante up and drink up" in the name of economic development? The dorsal fin of the shark is circling around drawing closer with every revolution. We can sit back, give up, and wait for it to eat us, or we can fight it with all we have.

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Actor details new life as follower of Christ

BALDWIN ON CHRIST — Stephen Baldwin, the youngest of the Baldwin brothers acting clan, addresses his conversion to Christianity for participants at the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention's Youth Evangelism Conference (YEC) at Criswell College in Dallas. (BP photo by Kyle Felts)



DALLAS (BP) — Stephen Baldwin had just told a packed auditorium of students in Dallas about his conversion to Christ.

In the hallway next to the stage, a purple-haired teen, probably 12 or 13 with tears flowing, bent Baldwin's ears for several minutes before the veteran actor whisked him downstairs to the hospitality room to talk. After a 15-20-minute conversation, Baldwin gathered several others around and prayed with the student.

"Good luck, man," the teen told Baldwin as he stood to leave. "I don't need luck, bro," Baldwin said grinning. "I've got Jesus."

That Baldwin has Jesus is curious to some. He's the youngest of the Baldwin acting clan — with older brothers Alec, Billy, and Daniel — and a veteran of more than 60 movies, including *The Usual Suspects* and *8 Seconds*, and television shows *The Young Riders* (1989-92), *Celebrity Mole*, and *Fear Factor*.

His conversion and his work in producing an "extreme sports" DVD to reach kids in the skateboarding and stunt biking culture has been reported in places like *USA Today*, *The New York Times*, *salon.com*, *Fox News Channel* and *CNN*. Lately he's been a regular at Christian rock festivals and similar evangelical events — even advocating that Christians turn out for the November elections.

Baldwin said he's not concerned with potential negative consequences of being a vocal Christian in the entertainment business.

"In my position, I just don't think I'm supposed to keep my faith to myself," Baldwin told the Southern Baptist Texan over breakfast

after addressing the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention's Youth Evangelism Conference (YEC) at Criswell College.

"I'm just doing what the Lord's telling me to do. You know, if the Lord's not telling anybody else [in Hollywood] to [talk publicly about their faith], well, then God bless 'em. But I don't think that's the case. I think there are a lot of people who don't put their faith before everything else, you know. And that's a big problem. I'm just doing what the Lord's calling me to do. Period."

Baldwin told the 2,000 students and sponsors how he came to Christ through the witness of his wife, Kenya, a believer of 10 years, and the 9/11 tragedy.

"If the impossible is now possible," he recalled thinking after the terrorist attacks, "anything's possible. And if anything's possible — my wife's a born-again Christian, I've been reading the Bible and I've been praying to the Lord to like, tell me what this is all about — then Jesus could come back tomorrow." That's what I thought. "Well, if Jesus could come back tomorrow, I've got a lot of work to do, because I ain't the guy that I want to be when Jesus comes back."

Baldwin said he made a covenant with God and was baptized at the evangelical church he and his wife attend in upstate New York.

His appearance at the Youth Evangelism Conference includ-

ed a plug for the DVD he co-produced with the Luis Palau Evangelistic Association aimed at the extreme or "core" sports culture of skateboarding and BMX stunt biking, an \$8 billion a year consumer segment with its own counterculture music and often hard-edged lifestyle.

The *Livin' It* DVD, which Baldwin directed and hosts, was released this spring, the brainchild of the actor and Palau's son, Kevin; they conceived the idea last year after Baldwin attended a Palau organization event in Fort Lauderdale, featuring leading skateboarders who shared their Christian faith with youth attracted to the "core sports" subculture.

The 40-minute documentary features extreme sports action, footage of engaging street outreach and stories from 11 top "core sports" athletes. The Palau organization planned 10,000 copies for a 24-month distribution; in five months 40,000 DVDs have sold, Baldwin said.

Baldwin said Jesus Christ has given him peace and has helped him be a better father and husband. "And I couldn't do that unless I had some understanding of what God's will was for me. And again, I only have that understanding because I know what it's based on, which is the Bible, and I read it every day."

Editor's note: For information on Baldwin's extreme sports DVD, Livin' It, go to www.livin.it.org.

Steady play leads Christian to Olympics gold

ATHENS (BP) — Headlines celebrated the overpowering pitching of the U.S. softball team en route to a gold medal via a 5-1 victory over Australia on Aug. 23, but Leah O'Brien-Amico was also there at first base, tallying a team-high 49 error-free outs while playing in eight U.S. victories at the Summer Olympics in Athens.

O'Brien-Amico was on board with a single when teammate Crystl Bustos — who led all Olympians in slugging percentage and round-trippers — homered in the first inning to post all the scoring that would be needed to topple the Aussies behind the pitching of Lisa Fernandez — the Olympics' top pitcher with a 0.29 earned run average.

Although batting .200 in Athens, O'Brien-Amico, age 29, nevertheless emerged among the Olympics leaders in runs batted in and runs.

O'Brien-Amico, upon arriving in Athens, tuned up for the competition not just by practice on the field but, like the team's highly touted rookie pitcher Jennie Finch, also by practicing her faith.

"Practice has been keeping us busy — we have two hours to practice on the fields but we try to squeeze 3-4 hours of work into that amount of time," O'Brien-Amico wrote in her journal at the

USA Softball website. "We've been checking out the Religious Center to see if they hold Bible studies (in Sydney it was great to meet with other Christians from around the world).

"Yesterday [Aug. 8] we went and there were finally people there holding a Bible study. There were two women archers from the U.S., two boxers from Nigeria, and somebody from South Africa, Nigeria, Australia and Canada," she recounted. "The Olympic Games truly is an event that brings the world together!"

Not surprisingly, O'Brien-Amico is among the team leaders in spiritual leadership. At the Sydney Olympics, she recounted to *Sports Spectrum*, "I was the prayer warrior on our team. When I made the team, I knew God had a plan, and I was kind of the spiritual leader. Before the games, I would ask my teammates to pray with me. We had a prayer huddle before every game during our lead-up to the Olympics, and we'd have anywhere from five to 10 players. But at the Olympics, we got everybody together and everybody prayed. We just gave

everything to the Lord. I would like to think that was a leadership role. After the Games, we gave all the glory to God and gave thanks to Him."



O'Brien-Amico

O'Brien-Amico also is a mom: She and her husband Tommy, whom she met at a softball game in 1997, have a two-year-old son named Jake.

Finding a balance in her life,

she notes on the USA Softball website, is a matter of: "Keeping God first, family second and softball/career third."

On the U.S. Olympic team's website, meanwhile, she says she encourages youth to: "Be sold out for Christ. When we have a real relationship with Him, our hearts are changed from the inside out."

O'Brien-Amico, as a collegian, helped lead the Arizona Wildcats to three College World Series titles, in 1994, 1995 and 1997 and was named the NCAA woman of the year in Arizona in '97. She was red-shirted for the '96 season to compete in the Atlanta Olympics.

Reflecting on her life, O'Brien-Amico told *Focus* on the Family's *Brio* magazine for teen girls, "When I was little, I went to church and asked Jesus into my heart. But as I got older and started traveling for softball, I didn't have a home church and didn't have a foundation in what the Word said...."

Although she is teased sometimes for her faith, O'Brien-Amico nevertheless said, "I love it. They do it because they know I'm a Christian."

Bibliocipher

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XD CXZC HDMTDODCX

ZJU TG HZSCTYDU

GXZMM HD GZODU; HFC

XD CXZC HDMTDODCX

JEC GXZMM HD UZVJDU.

VZBW GTNCDDJ:
GTNCDDJ

Clue: J = N

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle:
Luke 2:49